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# ANNUAL REPORT

for 1952

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector







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ORMEROD STREET, RAWTENSTALL

# BOROUGH OF RAWTENSTALL

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## STAFF

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*Medical Officer of Health:*  
C. H. T. WADE, M.D., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector:*  
C. CUNLIFFE, A.R.S.I.

*Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector:*  
L. T. SIMPSON, A.R.S.I.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector:*  
J. HOLT, M.S.I.A.

*Clerks:*  
A. HALLIWELL, MRS. B. BAILEY.

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

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*Chairman:*

(THE MAYOR, ALD. H. TURNER)

*Vice-Chairman:*

COUNCILLOR F. PLATT

ALDERMAN E. INGHAM

COUNCILLOR H. HALLIWELL

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„ A. RIGBY

„ W. H. SHARP

„ G. TOMLINSON

„ H. WORSWICK

JULY, 1953.

*To the Mayor and Members of the Rawtenstall Borough Council.*

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1952 on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The health of the district has been well maintained and no serious outbreaks of illness or infection have occurred. Steady progress has again been made in the improvement of unsatisfactory water supplies and defective sanitation. The appointment of a third sanitary inspector has enabled routine work to be maintained whilst these additional problems are solved. The prospect of dealing with unfit houses by clearance area is now coming into view and information is being collected for future action. Improvement in housing standards is the principal need in most areas and in Rawtenstall it is paramount.

Steady progress has been maintained in food hygiene and for the second year in succession an educational course was held under the aegis of the St. John Ambulance Association. Over 100 food handlers enrolled and congratulations are extended to them for their interest and public spirit and to the lecturers and organisers of the course who gave their services voluntarily.

I wish to express to Members of the Council and Officers the thanks of the department for their valued help during the year. They have given their support at all times and their enthusiasm for the welfare of the Borough which they serve is a most encouraging feature in the administration of the health services.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,  
Spring Garden Chambers,  
8, Kay Street,  
RAWTENSTALL.

## SECTION A.

### Statistics and Social Conditions

## General Summary.

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According to the Registrar General's estimate the population showed a slight decrease to 25,140. The \*adjusted birth rate was 13.9 and the adjusted death rate 12.8 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate was a little below and the death rate a little above the corresponding rates for England and Wales which were 15.3 and 11.3 respectively.

The number of illegitimate births was 24, which is the highest figure recorded since 1920. The infant mortality rate was 32.0 per 1,000 live births compared with the national rate of 27.6. There was one maternal death.

Infectious disease was almost limited to measles and whooping cough and there were no deaths. Food poisoning affected only four persons and the illness was not severe. The district has again been entirely free from diphtheria and reference to the table on page 15 shows that although there were 30 cases in 1946 not a single case has been recorded since that time. The protection given by immunisation is, as is well known, the reason for this happy state of affairs and it is important that parents should not be lulled into a false sense of security. Diphtheria can still cause outbreaks and deaths—it has done so during the present year in other places and the victims were those who had not been protected by immunisation.

Smallpox in its less virulent form occurred in districts not far away. Careful supervision of contacts and detailed examination of doubtful cases was carried out. Fortunately no cases occurred in Rawtenstall. Since that time (1952) another and more severe outbreak of smallpox has taken place. The infection was of a virulent type (Asiatic smallpox) and caused a very rapid death or resulted in severe and prolonged illness. There is no effective treatment for smallpox but there is a means of prevention by vaccination.

Because of the risk of complications after a first vaccination in young adults it is recommended that babies should be vaccinated at four to six months of age. Re-vaccination can then be carried out with much less trouble in later years. The vaccination rate in Rawtenstall is very low—approximately one in fifteen babies are protected.

\* Adjusted means corrected to a standard population for the purpose of comparison with other districts.



Seven persons died from pulmonary tuberculosis and there were 14 new cases of the disease and three new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The milk supply has been satisfactory and for the second year in succession none of the 85 samples taken was found to contain tuberculous infection. Ten out of 101 samples did not pass the recognised bacteriological standard. Whilst the freedom of the raw milk supply from tuberculosis is a matter for satisfaction it cannot be too strongly emphasized that babies and young children should have milk from tuberculin tested cattle (T.T. milk) or have heat treated milk, i.e. pasteurised or sterilized.

Sixty-nine new houses and 12 flats were completed during the year. Twenty-five unfit houses were either closed or demolished and the tenants re-housed.

The extension of public mains water supply has continued throughout the year in accordance with the Council's policy of eliminating unsatisfactory private supplies.

STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	9,528
Number of Inhabited Houses—according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	9,283
Number of Inhabited Houses—Census 1931	...	...	...	...	...	8,079
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£156,094
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£606
Population—Registrar General's Estimate (Mid-year, 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	25,140
Population—Census 1931	...	...	...	...	...	28,575
Population—Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	25,426

BIRTHS

		Male.	Female.	Total
Live Births	Legitimate .....	161	158	319
	Illegitimate .....	11	13	24
	Total .....	172	171	343
		<hr/>		
Still Births	Legitimate .....	4	3	7
	Illegitimate .....	1	—	1
	Total .....	5	3	8
		<hr/>		

# DEATHS.

		Male.	Female.	Total	
Infantile	{	Legitimate .....	8	3	11
		Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
	}	Total .....	8	3	11
Maternal	{	Puerperal Sepsis .....	—	—	—
		Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
	}	Total .....	—	1	1
Neo-natal Mortality — infants under 4 weeks of age ... ..		4	3	7	
Total Number of Deaths from All Causes		175	176	351	

Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population ... ..	13.60
Adjusted Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population ... ..	13.90
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births ...	23.00
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	32.00
Maternal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births ... ..	2.85
Neo-natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	20.00
Death Rate per 1,000 Population ... ..	14.00
Adjusted Death Rate, per 1,000 Population ... ..	12.80
Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	0.28
Death Rate from Cancer ... ..	2.27

## ENGLAND AND WALES.

Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population ... ..	15.30
Death Rate, per 1,000 Population ... ..	11.30
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	27.60



CAUSE OF DEATH.						M.	F.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	0	5	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	21	14	35
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	25	25	50
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	27	11	38
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	34	59	93
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	4	11	15
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	14	8	22
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	8	11	19
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	6	7
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
TOTALS ...						175	176	351

# RAWTENSTALL BOROUGH - VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Population	Death Rate per 1,000	Birth Rate per 1,000 population			Infant Mort. per 1,000 live births	Actual Still Births	Maternal Death Rate	
			Actual Leg.	Illeg.	All Births			per 1,000 live	per 1,000 live & still
1952	25,140	14.0	319	24	13.6	32	8	2.91	2.85
1951	25,320	16.8	322	12	13.2	33	11	nil	nil
1950	25,350	15.5	339	16	14.0	37	7	2.82	2.76
1949	25,220	15.4	363	18	15.3	28	5	nil	nil
1948	25,140	14.2	389	19	16.2	48	13	4.04	3.93
1947	24,630	15.3	486	9	20.0	58	11	2.45	2.38
1946	24,300	14.2	365	23	15.9	35	15	7.73	7.35
1945	23,000	17.3	305	21	14.1	55.0	10	6.13	5.95
1944	23,630	15.5	386	16	17.3	57.21	9	4.97	4.86
1943	23,630	15.6	323	15	14.3	17.75	8	2.96	2.89
1942	26,030	12.6	307	10	12.9	34.7	18	nil	nil
1941	25,770	14.8	294	8	11.7	47.02	17	9.4	8.92
1940	26,030	14.8	274	5	10.7	46.9	12	nil	nil
1939	26,810(Birth)								
	26,910(Death)	14.1	269	11	10.4	60	7	3.57	3.48
1938	27,070	14.0	311	10	11.8	62	12	6.23	6.00
1937	27,300	15.1	257	9	9.7	71	11	7.51	7.22
1936	27,710	14.4	323	12	12.0	59	20	nil	nil
1935	27,940	13.3	263	12	9.8	50	22	nil	nil
1934	28,020	12.4	340	17	12.7	78	12	2.80	2.71
1933	28,130	13.8	270	13	10.0	56	19	3.53	3.31
1932	28,500	13.2	307	9	11.0	63	21	3 deaths	
1931	28,890	13.4	352	15	12.7	49	22	5.44	5.14
1930	28,660	13.2	330	13	11.9	84	22	20.40	
1929	28,660	15.9	385	12	13.8	95	18	5.03	
1928	28,990	13.3	354	13	12.6	70	31	2.72	
1927	28,920	13.0	401	10	14.2	58	10	3 deaths	
1926	28,890	13.6	407	15	14.6	83	8	2	"
1925	28,960	13.0	420	13	14.9	87	7	2	"
1924	29,200	14.5	465	15	16.4	104	15	2	"
1923	29,020	13.5	490	16	17.4	75	16	1	"
1922	28,990	15.0	471	20	16.9	89	10	4	"
1921	28,470	12.5	573	22	20.5	68	17	3	"
1920	28,470	13.3	559	34	20.8	89.1	9	4	"
1919	27,379	12.8	334	25	12.5	55	7	2	"
1918	25,232	17.2	343	19	12.8	102		4	"
1917	29,018(Birth)								
	26,032(Death)	12.37	326	18	11.65	73.31	18	3	"
1916	30,821(Birth)								
	28,328(Death)	13.23	485	25	16.54	94.1	24	1	"
1915	29,575	16.26	528	20	18.53	133.21		0	"
1914	30,600	15.95	538	24	18.36	88.913		3	"
1913	30,500	14.91	275	18	19.44	101.18			
1912	30,500	14.42	553	19	18.75	96.15		2	"
1911	30,500	15.14	599	25	20.45	129.80		3	"
1910	32,960	12.22	599	26	18.96	110.4		6	"
1909	32,800	13.96	646	30	20.60	102.07		2	"
1908	32,700	13.97	705	28	22.41	113.23		2	"
1907	32,600	15.46	687	33	22.08	136.11		3	"
1906	32,200	14.4	642	24	20.68	123.12		4	"
1905	32,000	14.21	663	36	21.84	118.8		5	"
1904	31,350	15.72	675	35	22.64	143.6		2	"
1903	31,250	15.23	687		21.95	126.6		3	"



## **SECTION B.**

### **General Provision of Health Services**

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

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Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the local health services.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Borough Council :—The control of infectious disease; provision of suitable water supplies; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse; inspection of all food and food preparing premises; sampling of food stuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises; inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation; nuisances and defects; rodent control; offensive trades; smoke abatement; and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.



## **SECTION C.**

### **Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases**

## Infectious Disease.

Infectious disease continued to be mild in character and showed itself mainly as an outbreak of measles and whooping cough. There was no diphtheria or poliomyelitis. Parents should remember that the continued absence of diphtheria depends on the immunisation of children against it and efforts in this direction must not be relaxed. Parents may have their children immunised under the County Council's arrangements either by their own doctor or at any Child Welfare Centre.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria during 1952 is shown by the following table :—

AGE AT DATE OF FINAL INJECTION									
0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	Total 0—4	5—	10—	Total 5—14	Total 15 and over
220	55	1	3	3	282	59	22	81	1

The number of children who were given a reinforcement injection during 1952, i.e. subsequent to complete course, is as follows :—

AGE GROUP				
0—4	5—9	10—14	Total 0—14	Total 15 and over
48	434	157	639	2

The number of children under 15 years of age who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31/12/52 is as follows :—

Age at 13-12-52 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1951	1 1951	2 1950	3 1949	4 1948	5-9 1943-47	10-14 1938-42	Total Under 15
No. Immunised	38	252	453	301	296	1283	1313	3936



TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
NOTIFIED DURING EACH YEAR FROM  
1943 to 1952.

DISEASE.	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	60	61	42	20	28	7	14	38	7	19
Diphtheria .....	25	27	42	30	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia } Acute Influenzal Pneumonia }	50	44	41	41	48	32	30	42	50	31
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	3	2	2	6	2	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	4	1	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	2	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	3	6	...	...	...	...	23	10	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	3	7	1	4	8	2	4	1	...	...
Erysipelas .....	5	7	8	6	5	11	3	5	1	4
Measles .....	49	91	146	95	97	305	20	479	111	223
Whooping Cough .....	51	53	15	36	38	105	16	123	66	104
Malaria—Contracted Abroad...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Food Poisoning .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
TOTALS .....	250	296	360	241	229	464	90	711	255	392

NUMBER OF DIPHTHERIA CASES AND DEATHS, 1937-52.

No. of cases.    No. of deaths.

1937 .....	30	...	3
1938 .....	19	...	—
1939 .....	14	...	—
1940 .....	54	...	4
1941 .....	12	...	—
1942 .....	13	...	—
1943 .....	25	...	—
1944 .....	27	...	—
1945 .....	42	...	1
1946 .....	30	...	—
1947 .....	nil	...	—
1948 .....	nil	...	—
1949 .....	nil	...	—
1950 .....	nil	...	—
1951 .....	nil	...	—
1952 .....	nil	...	—

## BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following table shows the results of bacteriological and pathological examinations during the year.

Particulars of Examination.	Positive	Negative	Total
Throat Swabs			
C. Diphtheriae .....	—	4	4
Vincent's Organisms .....	—	3	3
Haemolytic Streptococci ..	—	4	4
Nose Swabs			
C. Diphtheriae .....	—	4	4
Haemolytic Streptococci .	—	4	4
Faeces Specimens			
Heat-resistant anaerobes..	1	—	1
Dysentery Group .....	—	2	2
Typhoid .....	—	2	2
Salmonella .....	—	2	2
Tubercle Bacilli .....	—	1	1
Urine			
Albumin .....	1	1	2
Deposits .....	2	—	2
Culture .....	2	—	2
Tubercle Bacilli .....	—	2	2
Blood			
Wasserman .....	—	2	2
Food Sample			
Heat-resistant anaerobes..	—	4	4
Aural Discharge			
C. Diphtheriae .....	—	1	1
Haemolytic Streptococci ..	—	1	1
Diphtheroid Bacilli .....	1	—	1
Tubercle Bacilli .....	—	1	1
<hr/>			
	7	38	45
<hr/>			

TUBERCULOSIS.

Each case of tuberculosis is visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor of the Lancashire County Council as soon as possible after receipt of notification. During the year 110 cases were visited, the number of visits paid being 394. Where desirable, Sanatorium or Hospital treatment is arranged for after consultation between the Tuberculosis Officer and the Medical Practitioner concerned.

At the beginning of the year there were 157 cases of tuberculosis on the register. 17 cases were added and 13 cases taken off the register, leaving a total of 161 cases on the register at the end of the year. The following table gives an analysis of the cases on the register during the year.

PARTICULARS OF CASES ON REGISTER DURING 1952.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
No. of cases on register at beginning of year	*55	50	105	20	32	52	75	82	157
No. of cases added to register during year ..	11	3	14	1	2	3	12	5	17
No. of cases removed from register during year:—									
(a) Died .....	9	2	11	...	...	...	9	2	11
(b) Left the district ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Recovered .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1
(d) Diagnosis not confirmed .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
No. of cases remaining on register at end of year:—	57	51	108	20	33	53	77	84	161

\* Adjusted to agree with Lancashire County Council records.



The following table gives the age groups of new cases taken on the register and deaths of cases removed from the register during 1952.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	Males	Fem's	Males	Fem's	Males	Fem's	Males	Fem's
0- 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1- 5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10-15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15-20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20-25	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25-35	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
35-45	2	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
45-55	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55-65	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	11	3	1	2	5	2	...	...
	14		3		7		...	

## SECTION D.

### Sanitary Circumstances

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my sixth annual report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors' Section of your local Health Service.

The improvement of environmental conditions is mostly unspectacular, and its effect on the health of the community cannot usually be demonstrated by dramatic changes in the death rate. Nevertheless when progress can be reported in many aspects of our work the general well being of a community slowly improves as less hazards to health are in existence. In this introductory letter some of the more prominent items of the past year's work are reviewed although the details are given in the text of the report.

Considerable advancement has been made towards the elimination of the unsatisfactory private water supplies which constitute such a potential danger to health in the area. At the end of the year owners of 481 houses—25% of the property likely to be converted—had either connected their houses to new public water mains or had authorised their plumbers to execute the work, whilst the Irwell Valley Water Board had laid mains to 75% of the houses included in the first priority scheme. This Department has prepared the necessary details and is awaiting estimates of the cost of further schemes, which brings the total number of houses reviewed to 1,535 i.e. 80% of the houses which are likely to be converted. Apart from providing a safe water supply to the houses, the water pressure now available renders it possible for a general improvement in housing standards to be achieved by the conversion of unsanitary waste water closets and the increased provision of baths. In this connection during the last year, 42 closets were converted simultaneously with water supply improvements. Such schemes were encouraged by the Council's decision during the year to contribute £10 towards the cost of waste water closet conversions and the payment of half the cost of pail conversions. In the seven months this latter scheme was in operation, grant applications for the conversion of 21 pail closets and 152 waste water closets were approved.

One would like to report similar figures in the clearance of unfit houses. Considering such action on a large scale has not yet been possible, the cumulative effect of the past three years, during which time 91 houses have been demolished or closed, has given some relief to the more urgent cases. In the three years the scheme has operated, 54 houses have been allocated to the Department by the Housing Committee for the re-housing of dispossessed



families. It is hoped that in 1953 serious consideration can be given to commencing larger schemes of clearance. The considerable numbers of back to back houses in the area, which apart from any other consideration, afford such inadequate accommodation, predisposes to repetitive housing applications on overcrowded grounds from successive tenants residing in the same houses. When full scale action is proceeding against the unfit houses then, coupled with the water supply conversion schemes, the two chief sanitary requirements of the district will be well under way. Such improvement of housing conditions should not be lightly referred to as slum clearance as this is apt to stigmatise the tenants who in the majority of cases are far removed from our old conception of the slum dweller.

It is also pleasing to record the improvement in the cleansing services which followed the re-organisation made possible by a house-to-house survey of refuse storage arrangements. A regular weekly frequency of collection from households in the Borough is now in operation throughout the year unless holidays or heavy winter snowfalls intervene. Refuse storage arrangements at all premises were improved following the survey, by the replacement of all worn out dustbins, substitution of regulation dustbins for the odd assortment of barrels, tea chests and oil drums found at certain trade premises, and by increase in the number of dustbins at premises where the accommodation was insufficient. 99% of the replacements and additions to dustbins, 554 in the year, were provided by the Department at the owners' expense following informal action. The least satisfactory aspect of the year's work resulted from a collapse in the waste paper market resulting in a considerable decrease in the salvage income, which for many years now has assisted in offsetting the rising costs of the cleansing service. Stocks of waste paper accumulated for some time but ultimately disposal was effected, only at a greatly reduced value.

The majority of food trades displayed encouraging reaction to our efforts to improve conditions under which food is prepared or sold. There was satisfactory response to informal notices served, which took the form of advisory letters setting out why the various requirements were necessary. It is considered that clean food education is best carried out where the food handler works and our inspections were carried out in this approach. The speed of inspection on these lines is considerably slower than the method which simply schedules a list of defects, but our experience is that it is the more successful. The value of education "in class" also should not be underestimated and two classes were run during the year in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Association for which 118 food handlers enrolled.

In conclusion, I should like to place on record the excellent co-operation and assistance I have received from the staff and colleague officials, including those of the Irwell Valley Water Board and also express my appreciation of the encouragement afforded me by the Committee and Council in the execution of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. CUNLIFFE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## Sanitary Circumstances.

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### WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of 76 houses in the Cowpe district, which are supplied from mains provided and maintained by the Bacup Corporation, the public water supply to 7,167 houses in the Borough is furnished by the Irwell Valley Water Board. The remaining 1,795 houses are supplied from private sources, the water being piped into the houses in all but 26 instances.

#### (1) PUBLIC SUPPLY.

Upland surface reservoirs at Clowbridge, Greenfold and Clough Bottom provide the sources for the main public supply. The whole supply is chlorinated, and part of the supply is filtered through closed pressure filters. Owing to certain waters being derived from peaty moorlands there is a liability to plumbo-solvency and the water is lime treated to overcome this. Ninety examinations for plumbo-solvency were made and found to be satisfactory. The Water Board also reports that satisfactory results were obtained from 92 bacteriological and 30 chemical examinations carried out during the year. The Department also collected 6 samples for bacteriological examination all of which proved satisfactory. Extensions of distribution mains were made to areas served by unsatisfactory private water supplies and also to new housing sites.

#### (2) PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

The year has been notable for the progress made in dealing with unsatisfactory private water supplies. The following statistical review sets out the essential details of the action taken.

### PROGRESS BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

	No. of Notices.		
	1951	1952	Totals
Informal Notices served on owners .....	369	146	515
Reminder Notices served on owners .....	117	518	635
Formal Notices served on owners .....	6	61	67
	No. of Houses.		
	1951	1952	Totals
Schemes prepared and forwarded to Water Undertakers .....	774	761	1535
Schemes approved by Council .....	531	65	596
Houses dealt with under Housing Acts (closure or demolition) .....	—	15	15



PROGRESS BY WATER UNDERTAKERS.

New mains laid .....	149	295	444
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PROGRESS BY OWNERS.

Agreements received from owners to connect to new mains .....	233	248	481
Connected to new mains .....	27	247	} 279
Connected by local authority in default .....	—	5	

CONTROL MEASURES.—SAMPLING.

	Bacterio-logical.		Chemical (Organic Content).		Chemical (Presence of Lead).	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
No. of samples collected ...	474	109	70	13	92	30
No. reported satisfactory...	189	67	59	10	62	21
No. reported suspicious ....	49	19	8	3	—	—
No. reported unsatisfact'y	236	23	3	—	30	9

CONTROL MEASURES.—WARNING LETTERS TO CONSUMERS.

	No. of Houses.		
	1951	1952	Totals
Advice to boil and to run standing water to waste .....	281	5	286
Advice to boil only .....	395	92	487
Advice to run standing water to waste only ...	25	—	25

FINANCIAL.

	£	s.	d.
Total cost of approved schemes .....	12,307	8	6
Net capital deficiency payable by Corporation .....	6,286	12	8

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage disposal works is situated in Haslingden and is under the control of the Bacup, Rawtenstall and Haslingden Outfall Sewerage Board. The method of treatment is by precipitation and filtration with outfall into the River Irwell.

The sewerage scheme is on the separate system but the presence of old uncharted goits and water courses gives rise to many problems. During the year the Borough Engineer commenced a detailed survey of the sewers and watercourses.

The main extension to the sewerage system during the year was in connection with new housing developments. One length of sewer over 200 yards in length was laid to enable 10 houses served

by pails to be converted to the water carriage system. There were 965 inspections in relation to drainage defects, and 605 complaints of blocked drains, etc., were dealt with by the Department during the year. There are a number of farms and cottages not connected to the sewers by reason of their isolation.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rivers Irwell, Limy Water and Whitewell Brook are polluted by industrial premises in the area and improvement in this matter is one of the chief sanitary requirements in this district.

The responsible authority for dealing with pollution is the Mersey River Board, with whom contact was made on a number of occasions during the year regarding abnormal pollutions. The area of the Board is based on the natural drainage areas of rivers and streams which ultimately feed the River Mersey.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

No. of privy middens .....	7
No. of closets attached to these middens .....	7
No. of pail closets .....	325
No. of dry ashpits (exclusive of middens) .....	20
No. of waste water closets .....	3,313
No. of fresh water closets .....	4,819
No. of portable receptacles for refuse .....	9,533

## SANITARY CONVERSIONS.

The Corporation's contribution of £10 towards the cost of waste water closet conversions which commenced in May, 1952, evoked a good response from the owners of many houses and 143 "tippers" were converted. The contribution is made subject to the work being carried out in accordance with a specification of works issued by the Department to all contractors in the area. Every effort is made to ensure a sound job with particular regard being made to protection from frost where conversion is made on site. Progress was made in the conversion of pail closets, in which cases the Corporation contribute one half the cost of the plumbing and drainage work.

Applications for grants totalling £1,022 4s. 11d. were approved, and loan sanction was obtained from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the borrowing of monies to cover an estimated 5 year programme.

	Converted from Pails.	W.W. Cs.	To Int. F.W. Cs.	To Ext. F.W. Cs.	Grants app'ved for payment.		
Applications approved .....	21	152	11 23	11 131			
Conversions completed .....	13	126	6 21	8 106			
Grants approved .....	5	99	2 13	4 87	£ 32	4	11
In association with private water supply conversions	3	39		3 37	£990	0	0

## Sanitary Inspections during 1952.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.	Primary Visits.	Re- visits.	Totals.
Cleansing and Salvage .....	248	—	248
Disinfection .....	40	4	44
Drainage and Sewerage .....	692	273	965
Factories with Mechanical Power .....	56	28	84
Factories without Mechanical Power ...	1	—	1
Factories (others) .....	1	1	2
Infectious Diseases .....	32	24	56
Keeping of Animals .....	6	—	6
Nuisances (Miscellaneous) .....	77	24	101
Offensive Trades .....	1	—	1
Public Conveniences .....	350	3	353
Rag Flock Premises .....	9	—	9
Refuse Accommodation .....	703	—	703
Rodent Control .....	88	83	171
Sanitary Accommodation .....	368	16	384
Schools .....	6	—	6
Shops Act .....	20	29	49
Smoke Abatement .....	8	2	10
Smoke Observations .....	18	—	18
Verminous Premises .....	41	57	98
Water Sampling .....	185	—	185
Water Supplies (private) .....	136	32	168
Water Supplies (public) .....	28	—	28
HOUSING ADMINISTRATION.			
Dwelling house Repairs—H.A. ....	80	61	141
Dwelling house Repairs—P.H.A. ....	124	83	207
Enquiries (Miscellaneous) .....	44	3	47
Survey .....	290	10	300



FOOD ADMINISTRATION.	Primary Visits.	Re- visits.	Totals.
Food Inspection .....	102	—	102
Food Poisoning .....	2	8	10
Food Premises—Bakehouses .....	14	4	18
Butchers .....	28	54	82
Canteens .....	4	1	5
Catering Estabs. ....	10	9	19
Confectioners .....	1	—	1
Fishmongers .....	2	—	2
Food Preparing .....	29	36	65
Fried Fish Shops .....	4	4	8
Greengrocers .....	3	1	4
Grocers .....	35	6	41
Ice Cream Man'f'rs..	20	7	27
Ice Cream Retailers..	91	2	93
Licensed Premises ...	2	2	4
Ice Cream Sampling—Bacteriological ..	35	—	35
Milk Sampling—Bacteriological .....	110	—	110
Food & Drugs .....	45	—	45
T.B. Exam. ....	74	—	74
 TOTALS .....	 4263	 867	 5130

## WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE YEAR.

The following list of housing defects and nuisances were discovered, remedied, and dealt with by the service of notice :—

### DWELLING HOUSE REPAIRS AND NUISANCES RECORDED IN JOURNAL (P.H.A.).

	Found.	Abated.
Roofs .....	18	25
Chimney stacks .....	1	1
Chimney flues .....	2	2
Eavesgutters .....	12	23
Rain water pipes .....	10	14
Walls structure .....	1	1
Wall pointings .....	27	37
Yard surfacings .....	2	3
Outbuildings .....	10	9
Pails defective .....	6	6
Waste water closets defective .....	73	65
Waste water closets converted .....	—	6

Fresh water closets defective .....	3	6
Drains .....	40	41
Ashpits defective .....	1	1
Dustbins defective .....	147	142
Ceilings, Ceiling Plaster .....	10	11
Wall plaster .....	14	18
Windows .....	12	20
Doors, Door woodwork .....	4	9
Floors .....	6	7
Fireplaces .....	9	8
Sinks .....	2	3
Water Supply fittings .....	2	1
Water Supply improvements .....	1	1
Dust and Effluvia .....	1	1
Unsatisfactory Private Water Supply..	65	256
Total Defects .....	479	717

In addition to the above, 605 complaints relating to blocked drains, etc., were dealt with. During the year 554 dustbins were supplied by this Department.

#### NOTICES SERVED.

Informal .....	404
Statutory .....	61
Work carried out in default .....	5

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

18 smoke observations of industrial chimneys in the area were made during the year and generally this aspect of the work received increased attention but much more work requires to be done in this connection.

#### RESULTS OF SMOKE OBSERVATION.

Less than 3 minutes black smoke emitted per half hour (Bye-law standard) .....	15
More than 3 minutes black smoke emitted per half hour .....	3
	18

Satisfactory solutions of the various problems call for co-operative action with the various bodies and, generally speaking, industrialists in the area co-operate readily when their attention is drawn to unsatisfactory conditions. There is still however too

great a tendency to blame inferior or unsuitable fuels, which undoubtedly increase the difficulties of suppressing nuisances, but at the same time it becomes increasingly important to utilise more efficient plants and fuelling procedures. The general public themselves do not realise the serious amount of pollution emanating from their own domestic fireplaces. During recent years a considerable number of older houses and Council houses have been fitted with approved smokeless fuel grates yet only a small percentage of people use them correctly and continue to burn smoky bituminous coal when smokeless fuels are available. Considerable education seems necessary in this connection.

### DISINFESTATION.

This work has been appreciably developed during the year. Advice and assistance is given to all occupiers of infested premises who seek our help. Treatment for householders is free if their co-operation can be secured, and the methods vary according to circumstances. The substances used are 5% D.D.T. powders with pyrethrum, 5% liquid D.D.T. in kerosene, and Fumite D.D.T. Lindane smoke generators.

Treatment by the Department's staff has been undertaken in the following cases :—

		No. of Rooms.	No. of Premises.
Bed Bugs .....	Domestic	11	
Cockroaches .....	Domestic	70	
	Schools		2
	Factories		1
Cryptophagus Beetles .....	Domestic	10	
Fleas .....	Domestic	9	
Golden Spider Beetles .....	Domestic	4	

### DISINFECTION.

Visits were made during the year in connection with the investigation of cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of rooms and articles. The following treatments were given in 1952 :

	Disinfected.		Destroyed.	
	T.B.	Others	T.B.	Others
Rooms .....	23	5	—	—
Beds .....	5	1	—	27
Other Articles .....	67	8	—	119



## SCHOOLS.

There are 23 schools in the Borough and the following table sets out the general standard of sanitary arrangements. The Regulations referred to are based on the School Premises Amending Regulations.

Yard surfaces unsatisfactory .....	12
Sanitary Accommodation :—	
Fresh water closets only .....	15
Trough closets only .....	4
Part fresh water closet and part trough closets .....	4
Deficiencies by standards prescribed by Regulations	12
Refuse Disposal by dustbins .....	23
Water Supply :—	
Public Mains .....	22
Private Supplies .....	1
Washing facilities unsatisfactory according to standards prescribed by Regulations .....	18
Drinking facilities unsatisfactory .....	21

The facilities for handling school meals were mainly satisfactory and a high standard of cleanliness was observed. A central meal kitchen supplies the majority of schools, the meals being carried in insulated containers.

During the year the attention of the Divisional Education Committee and the School Managers was again drawn to the unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at the seven schools where trough closets existed. Recent reports indicate that schemes for the conversion of a number of the closets are now in hand, in one instance, 4 trough closets were converted.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two tripe dressing premises in the Borough which receive periodic inspection.

## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Control of moveable dwellings is effected by Section 140 of the Rawtenstall Corporation Act, 1907. No applications were made during the year.

## RAG FLOCK.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, came into operation on the 1st November, 1951, and the Act repeals the Rag Flock Acts of 1911 and 1928. There are no licensed premises within the Borough but two premises are registered as users of filling materials, and nine visits were made to them.

## RODENT CONTROL.

One man is employed on rodent control work and the technique recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is carried out in all cases. A free service is given to tenants of domestic premises but a charge is made for the treatment of business premises. Close co-operation is maintained with the County Agricultural Executive Committee in cases of infestations occurring at farms and other agricultural premises, which under the new Act come under our jurisdiction. The major source of infestation in the Borough arises from the banks of the River Irwell and tributaries, and it is customary to treat the river banks at the same time as infested properties nearby. Infested sewers are treated twice yearly for the destruction of rats, and this method appears to keep down the sewer infestation to a minimum level.

Technically the interesting feature of the year was the success achieved by the use of Warfarin in baits. This substance destroys the ability of the blood to clot on exposure to the air and introduces an entirely new technique of rodent control which has given very satisfactory results.

The following summary sets out the work carried out under this heading :—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricul- tural	All Others	Total
Total number of proper- ties in District .....	12	8932	220	920	10084
Number inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification .....	5	102	8	51	166
(b) Otherwise .....	1	16	11	14	42
Number found to be infested by rats:—					
(a) Major .....	—	—	1	6	7
(b) Minor .....	3	72	8	57	140
Number found to be seriously infested by mice .....	—	2	—	2	4
Number of infested pro- perties treated by L.A.	4	92	9	65	170
Number of informal notices served .....	—	6	2	3	11

SEWER TREATMENTS.

	1st treatment.	2nd treatment
Total No. of manholes .....	1785	1785
No. of manholes test baited .....	167	—
No. of manholes pre-baited .....	375	183
No. of infested manholes .....	95	70

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The above Act which came into operation on the 1st April, 1952, seeks to control the conditions under which pet animals are kept for sale. All primary inspections were carried out in conjunction with the local inspector of the N.S.P.C.A. and four licences were issued after premises had been rendered satisfactory for their particular purpose.

Factories Act, 1937.

	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	184	1	—
Factories not included above to which Section 7 applies .....	163	84	4
Other Premises to which Section 7 applies .....	9	—	1
Totals .....	356	85	5

DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.
Sanitary Conveniences :—				
(a) Insufficient .....	3	2	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	2	1	—	2
Other offences against the Act .....	2	2	—	—
	7	5	—	3

OUTWORKERS.

In accordance with Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, notifications on the August list were received from six factory occupiers in the Borough that 22 outworkers are employed in



classes of work specified by order.\* These are entirely connected with the slipper industry. In two cases where the outworker carried on work outside the Borough the appropriate Local Authorities were informed.

\* This shows a decrease of 30 outworkers over last year.

## Public Cleansing.

### REFUSE COLLECTION.

The collection of domestic and trade refuse is undertaken by five S.D. freighters. The town is divided into four districts and the additional vehicle is used to render assistance on each district as desired, to replace vehicles which have a breakdown, and generally to act as a spare vehicle. Apart from a few ashpits at isolated cottages not situated conveniently for regular collection, dustbins are provided for the reception of house and shop refuse.

As stated in the introductory letter a survey of refuse storage accommodation was made. Information was recorded as to the number, type, condition, site and accessibility of all dustbins in the town. Subsequent re-organisation of work resulted in the maintenance of a regular weekly collection of domestic refuse whilst refuse storage arrangements at house and shop premises were brought up to a satisfactory standard.

The collection of waste paper from shop premises, and kitchen waste from 220 communal bins, canteens, etc., is undertaken by a Bedford vehicle fitted with an Eagle refuse collecting body. Raw kitchen waste is delivered to a concentrator plant at Church, some seven miles distant, and concentrated kitchen waste is brought back on the return journey for re-sale to local farmers and poultry dealers.

The mechanical gully emptier is hired from the Highways Department on two days a week for the emptying of 225 pails provided at unsewered property. The large majority of these pails are emptied weekly and on each occasion the emptied pail is charged with approximately a gallon of strong disinfectant fluid.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Disposal of refuse is dealt with on controlled tipping lines at Meadow Head, although some difficulty is experienced in obtaining sufficient covering material for satisfactory tip sealing. The number of loads tipped during the year was as follows :

Refuse .....	4441
Sweepings .....	154
Gully Material .....	265
Various .....	1198

## CLEANSING COSTS.

The cost of refuse collection and disposal (excluding excreta removed) for the financial year ending 31st March, 1953, was as follows :—

	Collection.	Disposal.	Totals.
	£	£	£
Total gross expenditure .....	13,691	1,064	14,755
Gross income .....	1,716	53	1,769
Nett cost .....	11,975	1,011	12,986
Nett cost per 1,000 population ...	473	40	513
Nett cost per 1,000 premises .....	1,307	110	1,417
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Nett cost per ton .....	1 10 9	2 7	1 13 4

## SALVAGE.

The weight and value of salvage collected during the year are as follows :—

	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper .....	85	4	0	453	16	2
Kitchen Waste (Raw) .....	146	9	2	488	12	4
Textiles .....		9	2	3	4	5
Bones .....			2		3	0
Ferrous Metals .....	5	19	3	30	16	0
Non-Ferrous Metals .....	1	1	1	98	14	7
Bottles .....	31	doz.		1	10	6
Totals .....	239	4	2	1076	17	0
Concentrated Kitchen Waste (Gross Profit) .....	115	11	0	283	9	9
Total Income .....				1360	6	9

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

353 visits by members of the staff were paid to the public conveniences in the area. Such frequent visiting is necessitated by the regular wilful damage caused by destructive persons. New conveniences were approved in the Crawshawbooth area whilst a new floor was laid in the male conveniences at Queens Square. The provision of suitable conveniences with regular staffing is very much to be desired in the centre town area.

## SECTION E.

### Housing



## Housing.

### (a) STATISTICS.

#### NEW HOUSES.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

	Traditional Permanents.	Flats.
(i) By the local authority .....	57	12
(ii) By other local authorities .....	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	12	—

#### INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)	484
Number of inspections made for the above purpose ...	1051
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 .....	31
No. of inspections made for the above purpose .....	94
No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	31
No. of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	453

#### REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority and its officers .....	465
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#### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

##### 1. Housing Act, 1936 (Sections 9, 10 & 16) :

(a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	nil
(b) No. of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:—	
(i) by owners .....	8
(ii) by the local authority in default .....	nil

2. Public Health Acts :	
(a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	nil
(b) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(i) by owners .....	nil
(ii) by the local authority in default .....	nil
3. Housing Act, 1936 (Sections 11 & 13) :	
(a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	8
(b) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	2
4. Housing Act, 1936 (Section 12) :	
(a) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	17
(b) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	nil

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1952 .....	nil
No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during 1952 .....	nil
No. of persons concerned in such cases .....	nil

#### HOUSING ACT, 1949.

1. (a) No. of schemes submitted :	
(i) By private individuals .....	nil
(ii) By local authority .....	1
(b) No. of dwelling-houses affected .....	10
2. (a) No. of schemes approved :	
(i) of private individuals .....	nil
(ii) of local authority .....	nil
(b) No. of dwelling-houses affected .....	nil
3. (a) No. of additional separate dwellings provided	nil

#### (b) GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The general standard of housing accommodation in the Borough is far from satisfactory. Survey of these conditions continued during the year on the principle of external block examination together with a degree of internal inspection. It is hoped to publish a detailed report on the investigations during

1953. Preliminary figures reveal that there are 1423 houses in the area over 100 years old, 1997 back-to-back type houses : 160 other houses without through ventilation, and 113 back-to-earth houses ; there are also an appreciable number of the through type dwellings which are not in a satisfactory condition. The general internal condition of the sub-standard type houses varies considerably but lack of satisfactory accommodation and amenities is common to the majority, apart from their state of repair. The need for a planned policy to improve housing conditions is apparent.

Eight Demolition Orders and seventeen Closing Orders were made during the year on certain priority unfit houses, particular attention being given to the cellar or basement type of dwelling. At the end of the year only three of these dwellings remained for action.

The following figures summarise the action taken during the past three years when action under Section 11 or 12 of the Housing Act 1936 re-commenced.

	No. of Houses.
Allocations made by the Housing Committee to the Health Committee, 1950-1952 .....	54
Condemnations made where re-housing has been or will be required (33 re-housed and 19 not yet re-housed) .....	52
Condemnations made outside the allocation scheme (no re-housing necessary) .....	39
Total condemnations .....	91

At the end of the year the number and type of houses required to deal with the first priority list of applicants for Corporation houses was as follows :—(a) 4 bedroomed parlour type—14, (b) 3 bedroomed parlour type—10, (c) 3 bedroomed non-parlour type—119, (d) 2 bedroomed non-parlour type—341, (e) bungalows and flats—51. It is estimated that a further 2,000 houses are required to re-house families from unfit dwellings.

At the end of the year 112 houses were under construction and contracts let for a further 39 houses. Schemes contemplated in the near future are for 436 houses. The majority of the building sites are hilly but as there is no alternative the best use has to be made of those available.



With regard to overcrowding no accurate information is available, but regular and intimate contact with housing conditions indicates that statutory overcrowding is at a reasonably low level. The adoption of a bedroom standard of overcrowding for the review of applicants for Corporation houses is undoubtedly keeping serious overcrowding down to a minimum. There does appear, however, to be a shortage of 4 bedroomed type houses to deal with the very large families.

The economic factors of low rentals and high repair costs influences action under Public Health or Housing Acts. Systematic reconditioning of property under the Housing Acts is virtually at a standstill and recourse is usually had to requiring the carrying out of essential repairs only.



## **SECTION F.**

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food**



## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

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### MILK SUPPLY.

The supervision of milk production on farms is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Local Authorities are still responsible for many important duties connected with milk distribution, including the sampling of milk after it leaves the farm. They also possess the powers for prevention of infection of milk, and duties in connection with water supply, sewage disposal and housing at farm and dairy premises.

The closest contact is maintained with the Ministry's officers controlling milk production and copies of milk sample reports are forwarded to them for information and action. Prompt checks at all farms are usually given, following our advice of an adverse sample report. Follow-up samples invariably demonstrate the value of this system of co-ordination. Last year's sampling revealed that 90% of the samples passed the methylene blue reduction test which measures hygienic quality, whilst it is pleasing to note that all samples were found free of tubercle bacilli on subjection to biological testing.

The complete figures are as follows :—

	No. of samples.	No. satis- factory.	No. unsatis- factory.
Raw Milk.			
(i) Tuberculosis biological test	85	85	—
(ii) Methylene blue reduction test .....	101	91	10
Pasteurised Milk.			
(i) Phosphatase Test .....	9	8	1
(ii) Methylene blue reduction	9	9	—
Sterilised Milk.			
(i) Turbidity test .....	1	1	—

The following registrations and licences are in operation in the district :—

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

No. of registered distributors operating from :

(a) Shops in the district .....	66
(b) Premises outside the district .....	3

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences for distribution of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk .....	8
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THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

No. of licences issued in respect of "heat" treated milk .....	Retail Distributions	
	Pasteurised	15
	Sterilised	67

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat supplied for retail sale in the Borough is inspected at the Burnley Public Abattoir and distributed from there. Five cottagers' pigs were inspected at the request of the owners but no disease conditions were found. 102 inspections were made of food at retailers' premises and the following articles of food were condemned.

Bacon and Ham ....	141½ lbs.	Fruit .....	375 tins
Beverages .....	1 pkt.	Meat .....	724¾ lbs.
Butter .....	7¾ lbs.	Meat .....	134 tins
Cereals .....	32 lbs.	Milk .....	106 tins
Cereals .....	2 pkts.	Pickles .....	2 jars
Cheese .....	26½ lbs.	Preserves .....	8 jars
Fish, dried .....	14 lbs.	Preserves .....	19 tins
Fish, wet .....	21 lbs.	Soup .....	6 tins
Fish .....	36 tins	Vegetables .....	116 tins
Fruit, dried .....	20 lbs.		

In addition to the above, 369 visits were also made to food premises and the following work was accomplished during the year.

	Remedied
Ablution arrangements .....	1
Soap and Towel supply .....	5
First Aid arrangements .....	7
Cloakroom arrangements .....	2
Protective Clothing .....	1
Smoking in Food Rooms .....	1
W.C. in direct communication with Food Room ....	1
Food Room used for Domestic Purposes .....	3
Storage of Food .....	7
Display of Food .....	7
Handling of Food .....	8
Animals in Food Rooms .....	5
Tables, Benches, Counters .....	3

Machinery and Equipment .....	4
Miscellaneous Utensils .....	4
Washing Up Arrangements .....	5
Washing Up Methods .....	1
Hot Water Provision .....	4
Natural Ventilation .....	2
Artificial Lighting .....	2
Drainage .....	1
W.C's. defective or insufficient .....	3
W.C's. Notices not displayed .....	16
Walls .....	9
Floors .....	3
Ceilings .....	6
Woodwork .....	2
Vermin infestation .....	1
Refuse Storage .....	9
Refuse Receptacles defective or insufficient .....	1
Delivery Vehicles .....	2
External structural defects .....	6
Failure to take all reasonable steps to prevent risk of contamination of food .....	1
Storage of utensils .....	1
<b>TOTAL DEFECTS REMEDIED .....</b>	<b>134</b>

No. of Informal Notices .....	31
No. of Food Premises concerned .....	31

## CATERING. DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRIES.

No. of notifications of intention to open food premises	1
No. of premises found to be unsuitable .....	1

The closest co-operation exists with the Ministry of Food in the issue of catering licences and the following table illustrates the benefits derived from this system during the past year.

	Type of Licence applied for :			
	Tea & Sugar.	Snack.	Cater- ing.	Confec- tionery.
No. of applications received ....	2	5	4	1
No. of applications granted .....	2	2	3	—
No. of premises found satisfac- tory .....	1	2	—	—
No. of premises found unsatis- factory but made satisfactory after service of notice .....	1	—	3	—



## ICE CREAM.

There are 7 manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough, 3 of whom use the hot-mix method and 4 the cold-mix method. In only one instance is the production carried out on a large scale, the others are small traders and shopkeepers manufacturing for their own requirements. In all cases special rooms are used for ice cream manufacture, and none is made in association with domestic arrangements. The sale of ice cream continues to increase and 12 new registrations were approved during the year, all of which were for the sale of wrapped ice cream.

The details of registrations at the end of the year were as follows :—

	Hot Mix.	Cold Mix.
1. Wholesale manufacturers .....	1	—
2. Manufacturing retailers .....	2	4
3. Retail vendors—pre-packed .....	68	—
Loose .....	13	—
Totals .....	84	4

Generally speaking, inspection of the above premises revealed that the relevant Acts and Regulations, together with the adopted Lancashire County Council's Codes of Practice, were being satisfactorily observed. 120 visits were made.

40 samples of ice cream were collected for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows :—

Provisional Grade	No. of Samples.
1	33
2	3
3	2
4	2

## FOOD POISONING.

Two family type outbreaks, which involved four persons, occurred during the year, illness in all cases being of a short duration. In neither outbreak was the responsible organism or causal food definitely established. One of the cases did, however, reveal a very unsatisfactory system of handling meat pies at a butcher's shop. The particular shop purchased sufficient meat pies to last for several days and reliance made on refrigerator storage, with a consequence that it was found possible for meat pies to be subject for several days to daytime window display followed by night refrigeration. Following advice the management of the shop agreed to purchase meat pies fresh daily.

## FOOD HYGIENE EDUCATION.

In addition to the educative approach of our inspections to food premises, two courses were run in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Association. The Council made grants to the Association of £30 to defray costs involved in the purchase of text books so that a reasonable fee of 2/6d. could be maintained for enrolment to the courses. Circular letters to over 400 food traders in the Borough inviting their attendance at the lectures were followed by personal canvass and it is pleasing to record that 118 persons enrolled for the two courses. Despite some reluctance to take the examination, held at the end of the courses, 70 members sat, of which 60 passed in the Food Hygiene Section and 43 obtained the full Certificate in Food Hygiene and General Hygiene. The successful candidates afterwards seemed proud to display the certificates in their shop windows.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION.

The Lancashire County Council undertake the sampling of food for quality, assistance being rendered by this Department as required. Dr. S. C. Gawne, County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly furnished the following information :—

A total of 102 samples was obtained; of these, 75 were of milk and the 27 others comprised :—

2 Saccharin Tablets	1 Salt
2 Sodium Bicarbonate	1 Cornflour
1 Sauce	1 Glycerin
3 Coffee & Chicory Essence	2 Halibut Oil Capsules
1 Tomato Ketchup	1 Custard Powder
1 Pork Sausage	1 Peanut Butter
2 Cheese Spread	1 Fish Paste
2 Tea	2 Tincture of Iodine
2 Ice Cream	1 Beef Sausage

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.
1 Informal Milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 4% extraneous water.	Formal sample obtained.
1 Beef Sausage	Contained 25 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor notified.

1 Formal Milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 2.6% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and a further sample obtained.
1 Formal Milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.1% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Formal Milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 3.6% extraneous water.	
1 Tomato Ketchup	No statement of ingredients on label.	Age of stock queried & makers communicated with.

## DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT.

Functions with regard to above Acts which are administered by the Health Committee are carried out by the Police. I am indebted to Supt. G. Smith for details of the work carried out by his officers during 1952.

No. of cases of Foot and Mouth Disease .....	nil
No. of cases of Anthrax .....	nil
No. of cases of Fowl Pest .....	4
No. of cases of Swine Fever .....	nil
No. of cases of Sheep Scab .....	nil
No. of cases of Tuberculosis .....	6
No. of notices of intention to Sheep Dip .....	29

### Movement Licences Issued:—

Animals Landing from Ireland Order .....	nil
Foot and Mouth Disease—Controlled Areas .....	51
Swine Fever .....	4
Sheep Scab .....	nil
Tuberculosis .....	nil
Anthrax .....	nil









